

MISCELLANEOUS.

On the Anomalous Oyster-Shell. By Prof. J. S. HENSLOW.

To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.

Hitcham, Hadleigh, Suffolk, March 8, 1855.

GENTLEMEN,—In your Number for February, Mr. Busk has invited attention to a curiously-formed valve of a shell, resembling a combination between an Oyster and a *Pholas*. He intimates, with doubt, that the oyster has somehow encased the *Pholas*, or at least that the shell of the latter is present in that of the former. I suspect, however, such may not be the case, and that Mr. Busk has the genuine shell (one valve) of an oyster only. A specimen of a fossil oyster which I prepared for the Ipswich Museum a few weeks ago, seems to explain Mr. Busk's puzzle. This shell had attached itself by the *lower* valve to an Ammonite, and, as it grew, had taken, in a very complete manner, the impression of its whorls. But the curious result has been, that the *upper* valve, which was not in contact with the Ammonite, has become partially modelled to represent it. Thus the two valves together have the double impression of the Ammonite, in intaglio below, and in cameo above. I suspect from this that Mr. Busk's oyster had grown with the *lower* valve (which he does not possess) attached to the outer convex surface of a *Pholas*; and that the upper valve (the one in question) has in consequence been partially modelled after it. We must suppose in these cases that the mollusk accommodates itself to whatever curvature is impressed upon the lower valve, and then the materials secreted for the upper valve will necessarily follow the contour thus given the animal. It may be worth while to search for oysters attached to shells and rugged stones, to see whether traces, more or less distinct, of this sort of impress be not more frequently given to the upper valves than we have suspected. I have placed the fossil specimen alluded to in a vertical position, with impressions in clay (one on either side), from the surface of each valve; that from the lower side perfectly restores the form of the Ammonite, which has been only faintly impressed on the upper. The specimen is probably a detrital relic obtained from the drift. It was purchased by R. Cobbold, Esq., many years ago, in the north of Suffolk.

I remain, Gentlemen, yours very truly,

J. S. HENSLOW.

Description of a New Species of Corynactis.

By WILLIAM THOMPSON.

CORYNACTIS HETEROCERA.

Spec. Char.—Coriaceous; the tentacula in each row varying in shape, the animal but slightly mutable.

This *Corynactis* measures nearly an inch in diameter, and the same in height, when in a state of expansion; when contracted it has the